

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 07670 200124Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01  
USIE-00 DHA-05 H-01 /060 W  
-----032249 200135Z /66

O 200003Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3774

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS CZ NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCLANT NORFOLK NIACT IMMEDIATE

DMA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CSA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MOPS, BR, US

SUBJ: GOB DENUNCIATION/RESCISSION OF MILITARY AGREEMENTS

REF: A) BRASILIA 7668 B) BRASILIA 7669

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA CALLED ME TO HIS  
OFFICE AT 5:00 P.M. LOCAL TO HAND ME A NOTE RESCINDING OR  
DENOUNCING FOUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE MILITARY  
AREA AND A PRESS RELEASE TO BE ISSUED AT 6:00 P.M.  
(SEE BRASILIA 7668 AND 7669 FOR TEXTS.)

2. SILVEIRA STATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE  
GOB DECISION WOULD COME AS A SURPRISE TO ME BECAUSE  
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HE KNEW I WAS AWARE OF THE PROCESS THAT HAD BEEN  
GOING ON IN THE GOB. HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO  
EMPHASIZE TO ME, AS ITAMARATY WOULD TO THE PRESS,  
THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE NOTE.

3. I REPLIED THAT I WAS NOT SURPRISED AND THAT OF COURSE  
WE ACCEPTED WITH EQUANIMITY THE GOB DECISION THAT THE

AGREEMENTS WERE NO LONGER IN ITS INTERESTS. TO HIS STATEMENT THAT THE DENUNCIATION/RESCISSION OF THE THREE PURELY MILITARY AGREEMENTS WAS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE MARCH 11 DENUNCIATION OF THE 1952, I COMMENTED THAT, ACCORDING TO MY UNDERSTANDING, THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE BUT IN ANY CASE THE POINT WAS ACADEMIC. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT I WAS AFRAID THAT, DESPITE THE FINAL PARAGRAPH, THE BRAZILIAN PRESS WOULD TEND TO INTERPRET THE GOB ACTION IN A NEGATIVE WAY. I ADDED THAT I BELIEVED THAT THE REFERENCE TO NON-INTERFERENCE, REMINISCENT OF THE EMOTIONALISM OF MARCH, WOULD REINFORCE THE TENDENCY, AND IN ANY EVENT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE NATURE OF STATEMENTS BY WELL-KNOWN MILITARY FIGURES. I ALSO COMMENTED THAT I REGRETTED THAT THE TIME BETWEEN THE DELIVERY OF THE NOTE AND THE ISSUANCE OF THE PRESS RELEASE WAS SO SHORT BUT THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE THE ESTABLISHED PATTERN. SILVEIRA EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD NOT WANTED LEAKS AND SPECULATION. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SILVEIRA'S REQUEST TO SEE ME WAS MADE AT ABOUT 10:30 THIS MORNING, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE INTENT OF THE SCENARIO WAS TO REDUCE OUR REACTION TO A MINIMUM.)

4. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES WE ARE MAKING THESE POINTS: (A) WE ACCEPT THE GOB'S DECISION WITH EQUANIMITY; (B) IT APPEARS THAT THE GOB HAS DECIDED THAT THE AGREEMENTS WERE NO LONGER IN ITS INTEREST, WHICH IS, OF COURSE, ITS PREROGATIVE; (C) THE GOB DECISION DID NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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COME AS A SURPRISE; (D) IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE EMBASSY FOR ITS PART DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS ACTION A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS; (E) WE CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT TO EFFECTS ON THE SCHEDULED VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE. IF ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, WE ARE SAYING THAT THE USG POLICY CONTINUES UNCHANGED. IF QUESTIONS TIE THE NON-INTERFERENCE REFERENCE IN THE NOTE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, WE ARE SAYING THAT, OF COURSE, WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE NON-INTERFERENCE CHARACTERIZATION BECAUSE WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT BY CONGRESS OF CONDITIONS ON THE PROVISION TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF US RESOURCES CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND BECAUSE CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS TRANSCEND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. (HERE WE REFER THEM TO THE EMBASSY'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 5.)

5. COMMENT: THERE ARE PROBABLY SEVERAL REASONS FOR THE TIMING OF THE ACTION, AMONG THEM THE RETIREMENT THIS WEDNESDAY OF GENERAL POTYGUARA, THE NOTORIOUSLY ANTI-AMERICAN CURRENT CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, WHO HAS BEEN PUSHING THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO DENOUNCE/RESCIND THE

AGREEMENTS; INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS (THE NATURE AND  
EXTENT OF WHICH CAN ONLY BE ASSESSED WHEN WE SEE THE KIND OF  
PUBLIC PLAY THE GOB GIVES THE MATTER); AND THE APPARENT  
GOB BELIEF (VERY EVIDENT TO ME DURING PANAMA CANAL WEEK IN  
THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON) THAT US RIGHT-WING  
OPINION IS A RESOURCE TO BE INVOKED BY THE GOB. AGAINST THE  
POLICIES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.  
CRIMMINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Reference:** 77 BRASILIA 7668, 77 BRASILIA 7669  
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